



CLASSIC REVIVAL

Margerum City Hall

It's not only iconic; it's ironic. The new Sonya L. Margerum City Hall is a classic revival: the same name as its architectural style. Like a mythological phoenix, the original 1929 Morton School building has been reborn from the ashes of its former self. A landmark school until the 1980s, the building then housed the Community Center whose programs are still in existence. When it became necessary to find or build a new City Hall, this crown jewel of West Lafayette was chosen for its location, good bones, and historical value. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and bears a Wabash Valley Trust plaque. We revitalized the classic beauty into a state-of-the-art municipal building that better reflects who we are and where we're headed.

The advantage of previously being housed in Morton School gave us insight into what should stay and what needed to go or be thoughtfully updated. What you may remember as the multi-purpose room with a gym and stage is now the beautiful and stately Council Chambers. The original proscenium arch is the crowning feature of the freshly-painted room with new windows,

lighting, and AV system. The new Mayor's Conference Room is a cantilevered space overlooking Council Chambers created from the former projection room.

Other highlights include the Bean Room which serves as an overflow space for streaming City Council meetings when the need and opportunity arise. The room holds 70 and is available for public reservation through the Parks Department. Margerum City Hall's first floor has rooms intended for public meetings and classes once we have hurdled over COVID-19 restrictions and can re-establish some sense of normalcy. All entrances are now wheelchair-accessible and have private, gender-neutral bathrooms. Both original terrazzo staircases remain which lead to City personnel offices. The beautifully restored skylight illuminates the second story offices and meeting spaces.

If you'd like to meet with any department, please make an appointment first. We've moved in and are ready to serve our citizenry. Margerum City Hall is built to last through the rest of this century and beyond.

FLOWER POWER Celebrate spring with a pop of color in flower pots or garden spots. West Lafayette's flower colors are yellow and white for a bright beginning to 2021. Order forms for select discounted annuals will be available at westlafayette.in.gov, with pick-up around Mother's Day.



STATE OF MIND

By John Dennis, Mayor

As so passionately sung by
Lin-Manuel Miranda
in the musical *Hamilton*:

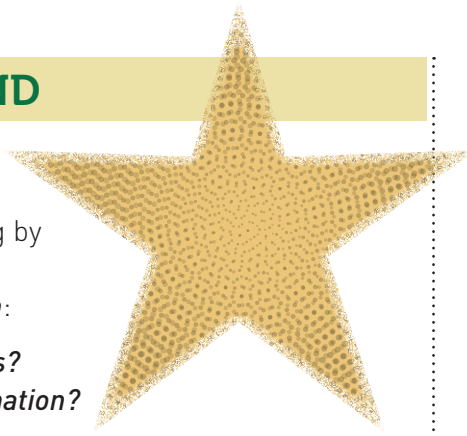
*Are we a nation of states?
What's the state of our nation?*

*And? If we win our independence?
Is that a guarantee of freedom for our descendants?
Or will the blood we shed begin an endless
Cycle of vengeance and death with no defendants?*

These lyrics about our country's founding continue to echo, as seen in disturbing clashes that recently threatened our halls of democracy and places of business. We must ask ourselves, who are we? What do we stand for? Who do we love? Who are those in need of help? What is America in Y2K+20? Where can we find optimism in going forward?

In writing the State of the City, despite the unrest that COVID-19 and a contentious election caused, I realized that we revealed our true selves through the actions we took over the last year. Our City's ongoing mission is to provide a quality of life through services that promote public safety, education, recreation, and diversity. I enacted a mask mandate last July in the face of pushback for the interest of public health. We pressed on with the construction of Margerum City Hall and the Wellness Center to make crucial investments in our community. We continue to celebrate our uniqueness and diversity every single day, not just on special occasions. Thankfully, our City is in excellent shape: financially, operationally, and physically.

Where do we go from here? How do we help those who are not fortunate to work remotely or at all? How do we reconcile the desire to protect other people with the desire to have human contact? How do we move forward, optimistically, into the future? I believe it's in our hands to make the difference. Yes, governments should lead in this effort; however, I can't dismiss the strength we have when individuals pull together as a community. Problems become an opportunity to change; change becomes an opportunity to achieve great things. Let us shine as beacons of hope for others to see and imitate; thus, justifying the dreams of our founding fathers.



Cason Family Park concept

CASONS GO ROLLING ALONG

Fifteen acres of fun are coming your way in spring 2022. The Cason Family Park is the newest park project on the grounds of the historic 1879 Morris Schoolhouse. Amenities will include trails, a playground, a nature garden with native vegetation, a shelter for picnics, and bathrooms. You'll be able to take a stroll through the past while enjoying outdoor family time.

WE'RE ALL HUMAN

The Human Relations Commission was established in 1960 to provide equal rights and opportunities in employment, public accommodations, housing, and education free from discrimination. Recently, the Commission expanded its scope to include gender identity and veteran status. For more details, visit westlafayette.in.gov under Boards & Commissions.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY BODY

You need to check this out. You'll be mad at yourself if you don't. Finally, after being on the City's wish list for 30 years, the brand new Wellness Center is open for business. Located on the corner of Salisbury and Kalberer Streets, the 73,000 SF facility has everything you ever wanted to get fit and stay healthy.

Need childcare when you work out? *Check.* The beautiful Clubhouse has toys and games galore for children ages six weeks to 11 years. It is an electronic-free zone to encourage active play. Think of it as a mini-camp where kids can use the gym or outdoor playground (with your blessing) in addition to the hands-on activities found in the Clubhouse. Members and guests can reserve one-hour spots through the MotionVibe app. Thanks to the Morris School House volunteers who spent hours setting up the Clubhouse for the opening.

Want to swim indoors? *Check.* The pool is beautiful to behold with innovative features like zero-depth entry and splash pad for kiddies, ADA-accessible water wheelchair and lift, a separate pod that serves as a pool for year-round swimming lessons or with jets for water-walkers, and four lap-lanes. Rent the adjoining room for swim parties. You have the option to use a private shower room or the on-deck shower. Individual changing rooms and lockers are available – just bring a lock.

Need to work those muscles? *Check.* Pick your favorite activity: running, weightlifting, pickleball, basketball, yoga classes, spinning. You name it; we have it. As the Wellness Center grows, so will the variety of offerings. Membership pricing is available on the Parks & Rec webpage. West Lafayette residents and active military are exempt from the joiner's fee. Don't wait to be great.



SUMMER CAMP 2021

Registration is underway for ten fun-filled weeks of summer camp, June 1– August 6. Summer Camp is now based in the new Wellness Center so that children can take advantage of the pool, gyms, and the surrounding park. The week also includes field trips, games, and crafts with other 6 – to 12-year-old campers.

Hours: 9 am–4 pm with before and aftercare available.
Members: \$120/week; Nonmembers: \$150/week.

To register, email
wellness@westlafayette.in.gov
or call **765-269-4950**.

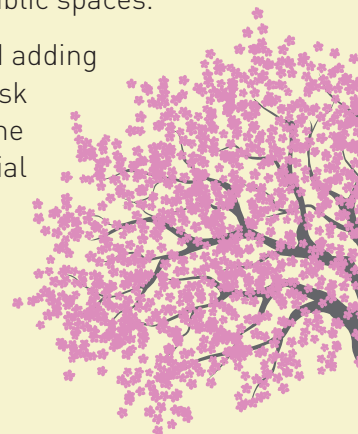
Make summer
memories —
go camping!



TREE TRACKER

New technology is enabling the City to keep accurate records of its tree inventory. TreePlotter is a cloud-based database that allows staff and volunteers to catalog the species, locations, and health of all street trees and those in parks and public spaces.

The technology can recommend adding or removing trees based on a risk assessment scale to enhance the environment or mitigate potential tree failures. Contract workers can access this information when they do landscaping or Operation Releaf tree work. A full urban forest inventory will begin this summer.



*Life has its ups
and downs ... We
call them squats.*
Anonymous

GREATER LAFAYETTE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A joint collaboration between West Lafayette, Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County was recently formed to design policies and implement initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect future generations' quality of life. The next step is to gain input from residents, businesses, and industries to verbalize what initiatives they want to implement and support. Potential topics include increased use of solar panels, ethanol, and electric car-charging stations.

Over the next year, several public outreach engagements are proposed — including community meetings and stakeholder surveys. Greater Lafayette will benefit from an actionable climate-resilient plan that includes diverse perspectives. Public input and consensus-building are vital to the success of the plan.

Please check the City website for upcoming meeting/survey details: westlafayette.in.gov.

COVID MEMORIAL GARDEN

A mother's love for her daughter, whose life was cut short by COVID-19 last spring, was the inspiration to create a space for others to find peace in the pandemic. Nicole Ahl Durbin was 34-years-old and living in New York City when she contracted the virus, which triggered a rare auto-immune disorder. Her sudden death left all who knew and loved her disoriented and grief-stricken. Her mother, Chris Durbin, reached out to the Parks Department to fund a memorial for Nicole and all COVID victims.

A garden with pink flowering Japanese Cherry trees, perennials, and a memorial bench is currently being placed in Happy Hollow Park in a quiet nook past the bridge. Much like the memorials for war victims, the COVID Memorial Garden provides a peaceful place to remember and honor those we loved.



Mayer John Dennis and Girl Scout Lauren Kish by the new ADA swing at Happy Hollow Park.



QUEEN OF SWING

Local Girl Scout Lauren Kish of Troop #2748 spearheaded a fundraising campaign to install an ADA-accessible swing in every West Lafayette Park. In doing so, she raised over \$24,000 and earned the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award by creating a sustainable community project. Just as important, her efforts raised awareness that children with disabilities need recreational outlets in public parks.

A young family friend with a disability inspired Lauren. Seeing how he couldn't use the park's playground, she identified the need for handicap-accessible swings. She worked diligently toward the goal of installing one for every WL park. Multiple companies, organizations, and individuals got on board and supported her vision, contributing more than she anticipated toward the cause. Because of her perseverance over 20 months, special swings are in all WL parks and others in Lafayette and West Point.

Thank you, Lauren, for your golden contribution.

*How do you like to go
up in a swing
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the
pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!*

Robert Louis Stevenson

OUR MAN MITCH



Mitch, Callie and Blair Lankford

There's another Mitch in town. Actually, he's back in town since he spent his undergraduate years at Purdue, earning a bachelor's degree in engineering before receiving his master's degree at Ohio University. Welcome, Mitch Lankford, to the position of City Engineer. Starting in April 2020, Mitch began overseeing

the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of private and public work projects involving roads, storm drainage, sidewalks, and handicap accessibility. He previously worked for the City of Danville and VS Engineering in Lafayette.

Mitch welcomes the opportunity to help shape West Lafayette's development, particularly in enhancing multi-modal transportation throughout the City to make it user-friendly for all travelers. His next big project is creating a landscaped, 10-foot wide, multi-use trail that will safely connect the Wellness Center to Margerum City Hall along its 3.5-mile journey.

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN

In January, West Lafayette Police Officers raised \$700 to help Greater Lafayette cancer patients meet non-medical needs through a Community Cancer Network fund-raiser. For a donation, female officers wore their hair down, and male officers let their beards grow.

CDBG

West Lafayette, Indiana



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

The City of West Lafayette received \$262,562 in the first round of the Cares Act Relief Fund in mid-August. To date, \$185,090 was granted to Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc., Food Finders Food Bank, Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, YWCA of Greater Lafayette, Modern Mental Health, Inc., Lafayette Urban Ministry, and Valley Oaks (Compass/PATH Program.) Usually, only 15% of the annual Community Development Grant monies can be allocated to public service agencies each year. The Cares Act funding allows for up to 100% of the funds to go to Public Service programs. Last March, \$500,000 of CDBG annual program monies was reallocated, from previous years, to provide pandemic relief to twenty-six small businesses.

An additional \$206,446 was allocated through Round 3 of the Cares Act Relief Fund in late October. As these funds haven't dispersed yet, the City welcomes community input for using these dollars.

Every time you spend money, you're casting a vote for the kind of world you want.

Anna Lappe

CITY NEWS



WEST LAFAYETTE
HOME of PURDUE

NEW HIRES

Karen Hurtubise
Project Manager
Engineering

Trey Karlson
Probationary Patrol
Dispatcher
West Lafayette Police

Harrison Knill
IT Support Technician
IT

Jeffrey Kuhn

Project Engineer
Engineering

Hamilton Nattermann

Operator
Water Resource
Recovery Facility

Jenifer Van Schuyver

Community Development
and Communication Manager
Development

RETIREMENTS

Marsha Miller

Police Officer First Class
West Lafayette Police

Jeffrey Richards

Fire Captain
West Lafayette Fire

John Dennis • Mayor
765/775-5100
mayor@westlafayette.in.gov

Sana Booker • Clerk
765/775-5150
clerk@westlafayette.in.gov

westlafayette.in.gov

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222 N. Chauncey Ave.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

PRSRT STD

US Postage

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Permit 74

Lafayette, IN

Committed to Going Greener



A Tree City USA



West Lafayette Farmers Market opens May 5. Photo by Ann Hunt

LET'S GO EVENT CALENDAR*

RX/OTC Take Back

2nd Thursday / 11:30-1:30
March 11 / April 8 / May 13
West Lafayette Police Station

City Offices Closed

Good Friday / April 2
Memorial Day / Monday / May 31

Wednesdays in the Wild

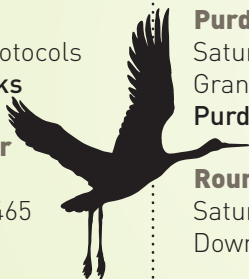
See website for COVID Protocols
westlafayette.in.gov/parks

Riverside Skating Center

(Weather Permitting)
Call for hours 765-743-7465
Tapawingo Park

West Lafayette Farmers Market

Wednesdays / May–October
Opens May 5
3:30-7 pm / Cumberland Park



Purdue Spring Fest

Saturday / April 17 / 10 am
Memorial Mall

Purdue Bug Bowl

Week-long series of digital events
April 12–17
extension.entm.purdue.edu/bugbowl/

Purdue Grand Prix

Saturday / April 24
Grand Prix Track / 1500 McCormick Rd.
Purduegrandprix.org

Round the Fountain Art Fair

Saturday / May 29 / 9 am–4:30 pm
Downtown Lafayette

Taste of Tippecanoe

Saturday / June 5 / 6 pm–midnight
Downtown Lafayette

*Due to COVID restrictions, all events are subject to change. Please check individual venues before you go.

GLOBAL FEST

Saturday / Sept. 18

Planning is underway to host the annual international street festival between Margerum City Hall and the West Lafayette Public Library. After a year of non-events, it is exciting to plan the cultural celebration with Purdue Convocations once again. Stay posted for details with hopes that we can safely gather together this fall.

